

Clay Spur Bentonite Plant and Camp, Garage/Machine Shop  
Clay Spur Siding on the Burlington Northern  
Railroad  
4 miles northwest of Osage  
Weston County  
Wyoming

HAER No. WY-23-L

HAER  
WYO,  
23-OSAG.V,  
1-L-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
P. O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: Clay Spur Siding on the Burlington Northern Railroad,  
4 miles northwest of Osage in Weston County, Wyoming

Dates of Construction: ca. 1928

Present Owner: N. L. Baroid  
Alzada Star Route  
Belle Fourche, South Dakota

Present Use: Abandoned; site to be razed

Significance: The Clay Spur Bentonite Plant and Camp is associated with the early 20th century bentonite mining industry in Wyoming and the United States. The Clay Spur Bentonite District was the center of the pioneer Wyoming bentonite industry and remained the premier Wyoming producing district until reserves began to dwindle in the 1950s. The plant embodies the distinctive engineering technology of the bentonite industry. The camp also reflects early twentieth century company town architecture with simple buildings and floor plans that could be quickly and cheaply constructed and adapted to many different uses.

The garage/machine shop is a long one-story wood frame structure, 24 feet east-west by 81 feet north-south, with a gable roof. This is one of the oldest intact buildings in the plant area and was built prior to 1930. The roof and exterior walls are covered with corrugated tin sheeting. The interior is divided into two large segments, with the larger segment on the north. The west elevation is divided into six sets of double-leaf wood garage doors. The interior has a dirt floor and numerous bins for wooden parts.

Historian: Robert Rosenberg  
Historical Consultant

July 1989

NOTE: For more information, see Clay Spur Bentonite Plant and Camp,  
HAER No. WY-23.